



U. S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE
***INDIVIDUAL FACING CHARGES FOR ALLEGED
AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS ON TRIBAL LAND
HAS INITIAL APPEARANCE TUESDAY***

SALT LAKE CITY – An initial appearance has been set for Tuesday for Keith Carlan Nez, age 20, charged with three counts of aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon while within Indian Country in a federal indictment returned in late December. Nez will appear at 11:30 a.m. in U.S. Magistrate Judge Samuel Alba's courtroom.

The indictment charges Nez, an enrolled member of the Ute Indian Tribe, with using a knife to assault three individuals. The first alleged assault took place Sept. 19, 2009, following an altercation outside a home on the reservation. Counts two and three of the indictment allege Nez stabbed two individuals during a fight that broke out following a party on Oct. 2, 2009.

Nez, who was initially charged and arrested on tribal charges, faces 10 years in federal prison and a fine of \$250,000 for each count in the indictment if he is convicted of the charges. Defendants charged in indictments are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in court.

The case is being investigated by FBI and BIA agents and is prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Utah.

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